



Safety Spot

Community Risk Reduction

# 9-VOLT BATTERY SAFETY



## 9-VOLT BATTERY FIRE SAFETY

The Colorado Springs Fire Department is always asking our community to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms to ensure you are notified in the event of a fire. As you are doing your part to stay fire safe, please be aware of the proper storage and disposal of that 9-volt battery. 9-volt batteries power our smoke alarms, household items and toys. They can be found in most homes. But did you know that these batteries can be a fire hazard if not stored safely or disposed of with care? The CSFD urges everyone to follow a few simple 9-volt safety tips to prevent a fire in your home.

The reason the 9-volt battery can be dangerous is that the positive and negative posts are close together. If a metal object touches the two posts of the battery, it can cause a short circuit making enough heat to start a fire.

It is unsafe to store 9-volt batteries in a drawer near paper clips, coins, pens, or other batteries. Do not store common household items such as steel wool, aluminum foil, and key near 9-volt batteries. If these items touch the two posts, there is a greater risk of a fire starting. Weak batteries may have enough charge to cause a fire. Some fires have started in the trash when 9-volt batteries were thrown away with other metal items.

### SAFETY TIP:

Check your junk drawers to make sure you are storing all of your batteries properly to avoid a fire in your home.



# Action Steps You Can Take:

## STORING BATTERIES

- ☐ Keep batteries in original packaging until you are ready to use them.
- ☐ If loose, keep the posts covered with masking, duct, or electrical tape. Prevent the posts from coming in contact with metal objects.
- ☐ Keep them someplace safe where they won't be tossed around.
- ☐ Store batteries standing up.
- ☐ 9volt batteries should not be stored loose in a drawer.
- ☐ Do not store them in containers with other batteries.

## PROPER DISPOSAL

- ☐ 9-volt batteries should not be thrown away with trash. They can come in contact with other batteries or pieces of metal.
- ☐ 9-volt batteries can be taken to a collection site for household hazardous waste.
- ☐ To be safe, cover the positive and negative posts with masking, duct, or electrical tape before getting rid of batteries.